



March 7, 2006

To: Members of the House Agriculture Committee, State of Michigan

From: George House, representing Michigan Allied Poultry Industries

IN RE: House Bills #5711 through #5716

Good afternoon, I am George House, the Executive Director of Michigan Allied Poultry industries, and a trade group of the commercial poultry producers in Michigan.

I wish to speak in favor of the passage of House Bills 5711 through 5716, a series of proposals that will serve to clarify the regulation of environmental rules by which poultry producers must operate.

I have served since 2003 as a member of the steering committee for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). Under that program producers have, with the able assistance of both Michigan Department of Agriculture and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, made great strides in being environmentally responsible through a certification process.

Poultry producers believe that a continuation of this method of regulation is a sensible approach. To set about to change the licensing and certification process will be both costly and time consuming for producers. MAEAP is important to both the producers and to the state of Michigan.

As the second leading industry in Michigan, agriculture requires regulatory certainty; the passage of these bills will serve to provide that certainty. Changes in environmental regulation can cause sufficient uncertainty to limit future growth and investment in the poultry industry; given a regulatory program, MAEAP, which has demonstrated it works the continuation of the program through this legislative package is desirable.

This package of bills represents a continuation of a proven program – MAEAP. It serves to maintain a stable and predictable direction for environmental regulation of agriculture. To help assure that Michigan poultry producers are not placed at a competitive disadvantage and may invest in growth and expansion in an environment of clarity and predictability, the poultry producers ask your thoughtful support of this legislative package.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of this legislative proposal.

5635 FOREST GLEN DRIVE S.E.
P.O. BOX 242
ADA, MI 49301

PHONE: 616.676.5593
FAX: 616.676.1494
gehouse@comcast.net